

Then language

The **Then language** (also known as **Yánghuáng** 佯僮语 in Chinese; alternate spellings: **T'en** and **Ten**) is a Kam–Sui language spoken in Pingtang County, southern Guizhou. It is spoken by the Yanghuang 佯僮 people, many of whom are officially classified as Maonan by the Chinese government.

Contents
Names
Dialects
Phonology
References
External links

Names

The Yanghuang people called themselves *ai* /*raːu*/, except for the Yanghuang of Huishui County, Xiayou District 下游地区, and Xiguan Shangmo 西关上莫, who called themselves *ai* /*thən* 1 (Bo 1997). According to the *Guizhou Ethnic Gazetteer* (2002:846),^[3] their autonyms include *jiŋ* /*ɬau* 1 (印绕) and *ai* /*ɬau* 1 (哎绕).

"Yanghuang" was mentioned in a Ming Dynasty record, the *Dushi Fangyu Jiyao* (读史方輿纪要).^[3] According to it, "the Man people of Sizhou are Yanghuang, Gelao, Muyao (Mulao), and Miaozi (Miaozi). (思州蛮自佯僮、仡佬、木瑶（老）、苗质（子）数种。)"

Dialects

Bo (1997:138-139) lists three main dialects of Yanghuang.

- **Hedong 河东**: spoken by more than 15,000 people, 10,000 of whom are daily users of the language. It is spoken east of the Pingtang River 平塘河 in the townships of Kapu 卡蒲乡 and Zhemi 者密镇, in Pingtang County, as well as in parts of western Dushan County, including Balang village 坝浪寨. Their autonym is *ai* 1 *raːu* 1. This is the representative dialect studied most by Bo (1997).
- **Hexi 河西**: active speaker population of about 2,000 out of a population of about 10,000 people. It is spoken west of the Pingtang River 平塘河 in the western part of Zhemi Township 者密镇, Pingtang County (in the villages of Liudongba 六洞坝 and Jiaqing 甲青), and neighboring areas.
- **Huishui 惠水**: spoken only by elderly people out of a population of about 2,000-3,000 people. Middle-aged and younger people do not speak the Huishui variety of Then anymore. It is

Then	
Native to	China
Region	Pingtang County, southern Guizhou
Native speakers	20,000 (2007) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Kra–Dai <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kam–Sui<ul style="list-style-type: none">Then</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	tct
Glottolog	tenn1245 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/tenn1245) ^[2]

spoken in Huishui County. It is spoken around the village of Yaoshao 姚哨, but not in Yaoshao 姚哨 itself. This is the most divergent dialect, and is most heavily influenced by Chinese. Their autonym *ai1 thən2*. Their ancestors had reportedly migrated from Liudongba 六洞坝 during the 1800s.

Phonology

Yanghuang of Kapu Township (卡蒲乡) has 71 consonants total, including those with secondary articulations. There are a total of 71 rhymes, 9 vowels, and 8 codas (Bo 1997).

References

1. Then (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/tct/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
 2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "T ' en" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tenn1245>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
 3. Guizhou Province Gazetteer: Ethnic Gazetteer [贵州省志. 民族志] (2002). Guiyang: Guizhou Ethnic Publishing House [贵州民族出版社].
- 薄文泽 / Bo, Wenze. 1997. 佯僂语研究 / Yanghuang yu yan jiu (A Study of Yanghuang [Then]). Beijing: 中央民族大学出版社 / Zhong yang min zu da xue chu ban she.

External links

- Then word list from the Austronesian Basic Vocabulary Database (<http://language.psy.auckland.ac.nz/austronesian/language.php?id=719>)

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